

Congress in 1800, when President John Adams signed a bill transferring the seat of government from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington. In addition to the Local Legacies program, which is the focus of my remarks today, the bicentennial of this great institution has been observed with ceremonies, exhibitions, the issuance of a commemorative stamp and coins, as well as the launch of a new, easy-to-use and entertaining Web site, americaslibrary.gov.

In light of Dr. Billington's accomplishments and the tremendous success of the Local Legacies project, I would like to point out his ties to the Keystone State and to Northeastern Pennsylvania in particular. He is a native of Pennsylvania and holds an honorary degree from the University of Scranton. He has made great stride toward his goal of making the Library truly the "people's library," and the Local Legacies project is an excellent example of this.

Last year, each Member of Congress was asked to submit audio, visual, or textual documentation for at least one significant cultural heritage that has been important to his or her district or state to serve as a record for future generations, who might otherwise have lost this important knowledge forever. This documentation is now permanently housed in the collections of the Library's American Folklife Center. In May, Members of Congress and Local Legacies project participants from across the country came together in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson building to celebrate the completion of this magnificent collection of historical material.

I was pleased to register several important cornerstones of community life in my district for posterity as Local Legacies: the Hazleton Funfest, the Bloomsburg Fair, the West End Fair, the Wyoming Commemorative Association, the Anthracite Heritage Parade, the Pittston Tomato Festival and the Saint Mary's Annual Homecoming Picnic in Mocanaqua.

Led by Father Thomas Skotek, the pastor of Saint Mary's, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, the Mocanaqua community sent the largest delegation of anywhere in the country—more than 80 people—to Washington for the Local Legacies completion ceremony. I was pleased to introduce them to Dr. Billington at the ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, the visit of the Mocanaqua delegation for the Local Legacies celebration was a particularly special occasion for Frank Evina, a native of Mocanaqua and 30-year employee of the Library of Congress, whose accomplishments are noteworthy in their own right. Mr. Evina was co-coordinator of the Local Legacies project and has helped organize numerous exhibits at the Library, including *The Thomas Jefferson Building: Book Palace of the America People*, an exhibition marking the centennial of the opening of the Jefferson Building, and *"The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale,"* an exhibition marking this year's 100th anniversary of one of America's most beloved stories, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

The Library is holding a gala celebration tonight as part of the year-long observation of its bicentennial. I send my congratulations to Dr. Billington, Mr. Evina and the staff of the Library of Congress for their tremendous work on the Local Legacies project and all of the bi-

centennial commemorations, and I also send my best wishes to the people of Saint Mary's and Mocanaqua for the continued success of the Homecoming Picnic.

FIGURE SKATING: A GLIMPSE OF FREEDOM

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, Janet Lynn fascinated the nation several years ago, when, as a 14-year-old figure skater, she participated in the 1968 Olympics. Four years later, she won a Bronze Medal. Her faith and perseverance captured the Nation. She spoke during the Independence Day celebration in her home town of Rockford, IL, where the people named the ice arena after her. Her remarks on family, faith, and freedom are so compelling that I want her testimony to affect other Americans.

I would like to submit the following remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FIGURE SKATING; A GLIMPSE OF FREEDOM

(By Janet Lynn)

I am honored to be asked to speak with you. What a privilege that the City of Rockford remembers me with such respect. I realized recently that the honor I feel is even stronger because I have been at home as a wife and mother longer than I was a skater. The fact that I am still remembered, yet alone having an ice rink named after me, is very humbling. I will try to reflect what is in my heart and tell you what it means to me.

Speaking is not my favorite past time and preparing to speak is more difficult for me than you can imagine. You may not know this, but my parents introduced me to skating hoping it would help cure my extreme shyness and timidity around people. But I liked to skate because I could express myself without talking to anyone! Somehow I think the joke was on me when I find myself invited to speak.

I grew up in Rockford from the age of 8. My memories of growing up here include my time at home, at the Wagon Wheel, at church and school, and my many opportunities to travel. It is here that foundations were built into my life. Skating was such an incredible vehicle to learn about many areas of life. I would like to share with you what I learned from the foundations of my skating, and relate them to the foundations of our nation; specifically, family, faith and freedom.

Since this is the eve of our country's birthday in a new millenium, I thought this would be entirely appropriate. The ability to live in a free and civilized nation has become a great passion for me. Over the years, even the many years that I have been raising my family, I have given deep thought to our freedom; where it comes from and why it is important. The skills and priorities I have developed from my job as wife, mother of 5 sons, and homemaker have strengthened my belief in the power and importance of strong foundations. The foundations historically provided by family and faith were the inspiration for our nation's beginning. I strongly believe that in order to continue to enjoy freedom in a civilized nation, we must rebuild our foundations.

God has placed in each and every human spirit the desire to be free. I think that skating is a very powerful metaphor of that hope of freedom.

It is my belief that one of the things that makes skating so very popular is that it looks so free. The people who skate well seem to fly. There is great exhilaration in watching skaters fly across the ice and then into the air with such beauty and grace! It touches something deep in the soul of many who watch.

I can tell you that when I was skating well, it did indeed seem like I was soaring; and I felt very free to attempt anything I wanted to on the ice. It was so much fun to let God and beautiful music inspire my spirit on the ice, to the point that I could express what in my soul, without talking. That freedom that I had to skate was built upon foundations.

I not only learned about freedom from learning to be free on the ice, but also from my experience of visiting nations that were not free.

Perhaps my travels when I was young have given me a perspective of which many are unaware. I had the rare opportunity to visit nations that were not free at the time and to experience in a small way the oppression and fear of expression so many wonderful people had to live under. I have seen people so afraid of being caught socializing with people from other nations that they hid in a closet. I was sobered when suspicions were confirmed that some "officials" who closely monitored and traveled with my skating peers from unfree nations were actually secret police.

On one occasion in an unfree nation we were assigned an interpreter for our entire stay with whom I innocently spoke to about God. He must have been immediately reassigned because we never saw him again. I didn't realize how serious that kind of conversation was in unfree nations.

I have vivid memories of being a young lady who saw the Stars and Stripes with an emotional and grateful heart upon returning to the United States. I had a new awareness of what that flag meant and what it has meant to many millions who have sought the privilege to live under its freedom and protection. I remember wanting to kiss the ground of my country, the most free country on the face of the earth.

Even at a young age I knew there was an important difference between what I experienced in nations that were not free, and the freedom I knew in our great nation. I have thought long and hard to determine what the difference is between freedom and a lack of freedom and I believe the difference is found in the substance of foundations.

I learned about foundations from my skating. My brilliant coach, Miss Kohout, as I respectfully called her, constantly emphasized the foundational skills of my skating. How I executed a single jump was as important as how I executed a double or triple. I once had a three hour lesson on just one simple turn. Our challenging weekly Saturday night workout sessions mostly emphasized the foundations of skating. Plain stroking to music, as our muscles burned, was something I think we all dreaded. As Miss Kohout's students, we were especially challenged the day we had to stroke to music in rental hockey skates on very bad and chewed up ice. In the face of these challenges, our skills had to be strong and the technique proper. If the simple skills were not perfected, the advanced skills would become difficult, if not impossible and certainly much more dangerous.

As with the techniques and skills of skating, I learned that in order to have civilized

freedom, our country must remain on its solid foundations. In skating, mastering those foundations required 4-10 hours a day, six days a week, of training, teaching and practicing. The discipline of school figures was an essential part of my training. Only when the foundational skills were mastered did I have the freedom to use those skills to express myself without fear of getting hurt. The training in those foundations of my skating continued for all the years that I skated. If I started having trouble with a jump, spin, turn, or edge, it could always be traced back to the loss or incorrect execution of foundational skills.

For 17 years I did not skate at all while I have tried to build and raise my family. When I began to skate again for physical fitness purposes, it became immediately clear that I had lost most of my freedom to express myself on the ice without fear of getting hurt. The foundations of my freedom on the ice were still somewhere in my memory, but I had to start reteaching myself and fighting with my body, which did not want to do those foundational skills in a way that gave me the freedom I once had. I could no longer enjoy the fun part of flying across the ice and doing jumps, spins, and footwork. To regain that freedom, I need to pay the price of rebuilding the foundations on the ice. When those foundations become second nature and I have the self-government of each muscle, then I will have earned the freedom to express myself without fear of getting hurt.

With all my heart I believe that these thoughts about my skating are a metaphor to what is happening in our nation. Our nation's freedom cost a great price. It was built upon certain foundations including the natural family and personal faith in the God Almighty. Today we have altered, or ignored, or perhaps forgotten the foundations of our nation's freedom, and I believe we are in great danger of losing our freedom to express ourselves without fear, as I have lost my freedom to skate.

There is a price to relearn the foundations of our freedom. But we can do it—and we must! I am concerned about the direction of our country. What kind of nation will my children, and yours, inherit? A lack of self control is omnipresent. Our culture seems to exist to satisfy the senses, and we have forgotten or deadened our souls. It is true that if we are not governed from within ourselves, that we will have to be controlled with excessive regulation or restrictions and force. If we relearn our self-government, there will be no need for excessive restrictions.

Peter Marshall put it best: "James Madison, chief architect of the Constitution of the United States, once explained the nature of the American Republic in these words: 'We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.'" (This quote comes from "The Glory of America" by Peter Marshall and David Manuel.)

I do not want the next generation to inherit a nation where children are killing children as we have seen this past year in shock and horror, and where mothers and fathers are neglecting, abandoning or killing their own children. I want my children to inherit a nation that is relearning and applying the foundations of self-government, civility, and freedom. This work is hard, especially because parents have a hard time finding healthy opportunities for their children's

growth that are not influenced by our degrading culture. That is why it is so important to make available in Rockford wholesome activities like ice skating which preserve the innocence of childhood.

I agree with William Bennett [as quoted in the Washington Times on October 12, 1999] as he spoke about "The Leading Cultural Indicators". He said, "the last 3½ decades . . . have 'fractured' many of the pillars American civilization stands on, and the nation remains 'more violent and vulgar, coarse and cynical, rude and remorseless, deviant and depressed,' than the one we once inhabited". He went on to say, "America's 'capacity for self-renewal is rare and real. We have relied on it in the past. . . . We must call on it again.'"

The foundations of my skating were supported by the foundations of our free nation. This profoundly impacted my ability to learn to skate and share my skill with others. In the United States of America I was free to express on the ice, without fear, what God put in my soul. The foundations of our free nation are within reach of every person in this land. They include family, faith and the great gift of living in a free country.

The important foundation of my family was essential as my skating developed and started to grow beyond anyone's expectations. I mentioned earlier that there is a price to learning and sustaining foundations. In my case my family often found themselves sacrificing for my success. They always did so with great grace, love and encouragement to me. It is hard to adequately express my thoughts and gratitude for the big and little things they did. I could not have accomplished what I did in skating without my father and mother, my brothers and sister, and my grandpa. They, all of them, gave me an honorable place to belong and a strong assurance that I was loved whether I won or lost (my worth did not come from skating). They taught me how to laugh at myself and they let me know I was a part of my natural family no matter what part of the world I was in, or how many hours I spent training. They gave me a perspective on life that went far beyond what I did on the ice. They are part of the reason that I know that what I have been doing as a homemaker is the most important job in the world.

The natural family is committed to one another and draws lessons, knowledge, love and a place of belonging from one another. It is a part of the foundation of our freedom. We need mothers who are devoted to their children and who are willing to spend quantity time loving and teaching them right and wrong. They must be willing to forgo immediate personal fulfillment for long term family rewards. We need faithful fathers who work with all their might to take moral responsibility for their families and provide for them. Fathers and mothers need to grow in the ability to give strong, loving guidance. We need parents who are willing to make their children and homes a priority each day, providing them with security and safety; protecting the innocence of childhood.

Though material wealth may have to be sacrificed, the wealth of spirit can hold the family foundation steady. Taking the time to learn, and then to teach our children the morals and virtues that sustain freedom only costs our time, effort, and a healthy balance of love and discipline. These foundations of our freedom are available to anyone.

Faith, which is available to everyone, was another deep foundation of my skating. Even now, as I look back on my skating, it is con-

tinually apparent to me—even more than when I skated—that God had a plan for me to skate. I made that statement in an interview as a shy 14 year old girl right after I made the Olympic Team in 1968. The next day the headlines in the Rockford paper read something like: "God has plan for Janet to Skate". I have wondered if that sincere statement would make a headline today?

I did not choose the circumstances that surrounded my ability to skate. Nor did I choose my ability, nor the love that I developed for skating. It had to be a Providential plan.

My skating gave me so many incredible, enriching opportunities and joyful experiences for which I am deeply thankful. But in life, the bitter often comes with the sweet. There were hard parts: getting up early every day, being so cold so often, having muscles aches and being away from family. It was difficult to have motion sickness since age 8 and to travel very uncomfortably. I had an obstacle to overcome when I had strep throat during the 1968 Olympics and was not able to take medicine because of the drug testing, but I was determined to be in the Olympics. I ended up very sick and delirious with fever after the Olympics. It was hard skating on intense exhibition tours with what was thought to be severe bronchitis, though I wanted so much to skate and was not about to go home. The emotional lows that corresponded to the extreme emotional highs were a part of training and competition. I didn't enjoy developing exercise-induced asthma at the height of my career after suffering from strep throat, pneumonia and pleurisy. I felt crushed when I realized that the medical treatment for my exercise-induced asthma caused more of a negative reaction from my body than the condition itself. When I had come home from Ice Follies to get my condition fixed so I could skate, I had no idea my body would not respond as I wanted. One of my favorite posters says: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

Through the joys and difficulties, Jesus Christ has been my stability. He has a plan for my life and it certainly included skating. The faith that my family introduced me to through regular church attendance has been what ultimately enabled me to focus on the good and persevere through the unpleasant things. My faith in Christ, knowing that the loving God can take even broken dreams and make something beautiful in His time, has been the hope of my life. This faith was a foundation of my skating.

Let me tell you a story. A few weeks before I competed in the 1972 Olympics, I appeared on the cover of Newsweek Magazine as a Gold medal hopeful. My life to this point, including all the effort and sacrifice of my family and coach, as well as my personal dreams and ambitions for self, country and God, were wrapped up in this competition. I was devastated when I found myself in 4th place after the school figures with no possibility to win the gold medal. That day I argued with God as I lay weeping in my Olympic village apartment.

Somehow, through my broken dreams, a thought came into my mind, that if I couldn't win, then all I could do was to finish the competition and decide to dedicate my free-skating to show God's love to all who watched. A medal no longer mattered. Somehow, God heard my cries and answered a girl's prayers in ways I could not have imagined.

I fell on a flying sit spin, which I had never missed before, even in practice. Because of

the way I had been trained, and the purpose that was in my heart, I was still smiling when I was sitting on the ice. That performance did earn me the bronze medal, but even more, that night I began an incredible relationship with the nation of Japan that has lasted 27 years. I was able to go back to Japan to talk about my faith soon after the Olympics. "How could I keep smiling when I fell in the Olympics?", is a question that has always been asked of me in Japan. Fifteen years after I spoke in Japan of my faith, I went back to Japan to skate. A young woman approached me and gave me a note. In the note she told me that when I had spoken of my faith 15 years earlier, she had wanted to take her own life. After hearing about the hope in Christ that I had when I fell in the Olympics, she decided to take that hope for her own and continue her life. That reward is one that is eternal; a reward that was given by a very powerful God.

One of the foundations of our free nation is faith in this Almighty God, Who is bigger than ourselves, or any situation. He is the One Who put the yearning for freedom into the human spirit, and it is He Who directs us towards the loving path of discipline and self-control—or self-government—that allows us to live in that freedom.

I had the gift of being born a free citizen in the United States of America. My success in skating was built upon the foundational element of being born in this country. I didn't have to flee my country to gain freedom of artistic expression, as some had to do during the era in which I skated. I didn't have to fear because I spoke to God.

I had the opportunity to visit some nations which did not allow their people to believe in God or to express that publicly. As a young lady I was amazed, and even depressed, when I was taken on tours of old and beautiful churches which were empty, unused, and explained a way as only great architectural works. God had been shut out, unwelcome; even unspeakable. I was even more depressed when we were taken on an Easter Sunday tour of a place where a bloody revolution had been started. One of the results of that revolution was the expulsion of God from a people rich in heart.

Because of that perspective, it disturbs me greatly to see instances in our nation become more and more frequent where people try to exclude God or create fear of talking about God in public. He has blessed this nation so richly. Why would anyone want to shut Him out? It is upon the principles of this God that this nation's foundation rests.

One of those principles of God is charity. I believe perhaps our nation has been the most charitable nation in the history of the world, and I believe that is because of our foundation of faith and freedom. We have been able to choose how we will earn a living with honor and honesty. And we have been able to freely choose, according to our conscience, how to spend what we earn.

I was not beholden to a government or its ideals that provided my training. My family did not believe that freedom was having everything provided. We all worked very hard and my family was very frugal. But at a point in my skating when I was going to have to quit, the charity of Mr. Walter Williamson as the sponsor of my skating allowed me to continue working to become the best I could be. This kind of charity one can never repay, nor did Mr. Williamson ever expect me to repay his charity to me, though I can pass on what I learned from it. He never exploited me or my name nor did he keep me beholden to him. His charity re-

mained a quiet, unassuming foundation of my ability to learn to be free in my skating.

In this great nation, hard work and charity have been the often unnamed foundation that has helped develop hopes and dreams.

The freedom of our nation allowed my parents to choose a coach who valued discipline and hard work. And Miss Kohout, with incredible charity, freely chose to stop sending bills for lessons as my skating started to blossom.

By God's grace I was the benefactor of the free and charitable spirit of my coach and sponsor. Besides the generosity of Mr. Williamson and Miss Kohout, there was a man and wife, who we had never met, who freely offered to pay for my skates. And some generous people in New York helped me with costumes, as well as street clothes and hair cuts, in order to present myself properly. Professional secretaries freely gave of their time and energy to help with my mail when it became too overwhelming, and my mom tells of her friends and neighbors who would each take a part of my costumes to bead. Friends, family and neighbors often traveled to my competitions for quiet moral support. My ballet teacher, Helen Olson, patiently worked with me for many years, though I had no flexibility and had no promise of dancing. There was a woman from Rockford who donated cowboy hats to go with my choreography to the music of Rodeo. An American soldier on leave in Davos, Switzerland volunteered to shovel snow from the ice a few hours a day so I could practice school figures while training for a World Championship, though the snow did not stop for three weeks. The stories of help and charity are endless—all made possible by freedom.

The freedom to give and receive and to work hard and have the choice of how to use what we earn through our hard work—this freedom, based on self-control and self-government, was a foundation of my skating. Without this freedom and charitable spirit I would not have had the opportunity to develop my skating talent for God and for all those that took part. Ultimately it was God Who gave me this freedom. It was His plan for my life.

Family, faith and freedom—The three deep foundations that supported my skating. The foundational skills of skating allowed me to gain freedom to express the joy God put in my soul. And my desire to express God's love on the ice changed the destiny of one young woman in Japan. God's power and love is all about changed lives, and nations that are renewed, free and civilized.

The foundations of these United States of America have, and can again allow the greatest nation on earth to continue to express what God has put into our national soul and spread that freedom for others to enjoy.

As I learn again the foundations of my skating. I hope you will join me in learning again the foundations of family, faith, and freedom, starting in our own minds, hearts and homes. I want all of our children to inherit a nation where God is not shut out, a strong nation that is free and civilized. I hope we can rise above the desire to just do things that appeal to our senses, and rebuild a nation that fulfills the yearning of the soul.

May God grant us the will to do so.

To end, I would like to dedicate the ice arena that will carry my name, to all those who have sacrificed so I could learn to be free on the ice; to all those who have sacrificed so our nation can be free, and to God Who has given us the foundations in the Ten

commandments and teaches us how to be free without fear of getting hurt. It is these unsung heroes who deserve the honor, and God Who deserves the glory.

Thank you for your kind attention as I have tried to share what the honor you have given me means to me.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOE A. GUERRA

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Joe A. Guerra for his excellence in public service. Mr. Guerra currently serves as the dean of the Laredo City Council and is mayor pro-tempore. Mr. Guerra has been a member of the Laredo City Council for 18 years with his last, and final term ending in 2002. He has served under four distinct administrations, J. C. Martin, Aldo Tatangelo, Saul N. Ramirez, and Elizabeth G. Flores. A true representative of the people, Mr. Guerra was instrumental in the inception of Laredo's citywide paving program, and is a strong supporter for the disadvantaged and elderly.

Jose Antonio Guerra was born on July 9, 1934 in Laredo, TX, to Jose M. and Josefina Valls Guerra. His lineage traces all the way back to the first Guerra who came to the New World from Montaña de Castilla, Spain, Jose Guerra Cañamar. He is the oldest of nine children, carrying on the legacy of the Guerra family raising and educating eight children, and enjoying the blessing of six grandchildren with his wife of 39 years, Josie Guerra. Joe attended local schools and graduated from Martin High School in 1953, following high school he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, in 1957.

Following his college experience, Mr. Guerra returned to Laredo to join his family in the automotive replacement part business. Since 1969, he has been involved in the commercial oil and gas business, and is the owner/operator of a local service station. Not only is he involved in the city council and the local business community, he is also a member of the City/County Government Consolidation Committee which was created to study and establish a metropolitan government, the City of Laredo Water Issues Committee, and the Ad Hoc Insurance Committee.

A member of the Republican Party since 1964, Mr. Guerra attributes his success to the party's ideals and values. He served as Webb County Chairman to the campaign for Governor William P. Clements. He served on the committee working to promote George Bush for President in 1988, and 1992. He also worked diligently to ensure my election as Representative of the 23rd District of Texas. Currently he is working hard for the George W. Bush for President campaign efforts.

Mr. Guerra was asked to lead the "Pledge of Allegiance" at the fourth session of the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, which he proudly accepted with honor and dignity.

Mr. Guerra has made great contributions to society as a public servant. His commitment